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ABSTRACT

A special committee of North Carolina library staff compiled an annotated listing of 50 16mm films concerning the heritage theme and the Revolutionary War period. The films are listed alphabetically by title, and the entries include information about length, rental and purchase price, age appeal, and a brief summary of the contents. Most of the films are available through the North Carolina State Library. (EMH)

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BICENTENNIAL FILM PREVIEW SESSION

N. C. L. A. CONFERENCE -- FALL 1975

PLACE CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM NO. 2, LOWER LEVEL

TIME: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 12:00 - 5:00 pm
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 12:00 - 5:00 pm

In an effort to provide conference participants, North Carolina public library staff in particular, with exposure tn quality films on the Bicentennial theme, a subcommittee of the Bicentennial Committee, Public Library Section, ordered, previewed, and selected films for a preview session to be held at the NCLA fall conference.

The films were selected from both catalogs and available film bibliographies on the Bicentennial. Choices were limited to 16mm films rather than other media which were considered appropriate for public library partons and are accessible to public library film collections. The subject criteria for selecting films were based on the Heritage theme, the Revolutionary War period in particular.

All of the films listed will be available for preview at the conference. Films which are available from N. C. State Library are marked with a Capital S. The asterisked films will be shown in listed order from 12 until 4 pm on both Thursday and Friday. Requests to show other films may be made from 4 pm until 5 pm on both days.

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Compiled by:

Subcommittee on Film
Bicentennial Committee
N. C. L. A. Public Library Section

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October, 1975

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ALPHABETICAL ANNOTATED LIST OF BICENTENNIAL FILMS TO BE PREVIEWED AT NCLA

AMERICA: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE U. S. by Alistair Cooke. Time-Life Films. Four of the Series of ten films are listed. Color. 52 min. $600 ea Rental $50.

S The New Found Land

It is one of the last untamed continents: rich, fertile, widely varied in landscape and animal life, populated only by small tribes of Indians. Suddenly: Fifth Avenue, New York City. Alistair Cooke explains how the white man got to North America and what he was seeking. The continent's two "great losers," the Spanish and the French, arrive and spread--conquistadores, traders, trappers and missionaries. The Spanish rancho culture develops in the Southwest. French traders push out from Quebec and New Orleans. But then the British arrive and a whole new world begins. Age appeal - General

S Home Away From Home

Merchant adventurers and social dissenters pour in from Elizabethan England to settle America's East Cost. Regional character evolves as Puritans, Pilgrims and Quakers struggle with the rocky North while a landed gentry prospers in the highly productive feudal South. From the first Plymount struggles to a modern Massachusetts Thanksgiving; from the early Jamestown hardships to current Virginia tobacco farms, contrasting American ideals show up in all their variety.

S Making A Revolution

The diverse colonies draw together in common complaints against the mother country. Blunders in London, inept colonial governors and costly British frontier wars drain the colonists and push them to fight--a pragmatic struggle fired not by ideologies, but by the character of men such as Washington, Jefferson and Henry. From Concord Bridge and antique long rifles, to the modern National Rifle Association, Cooke traces our tradition to turning arms in the face of trouble. Age appeal - General.

*S Inventing a Nation

It takes a decade to hammer out a constitution based on what Cooke calls our three great principles: "compromise, compromise, compromise." The secret Independence Hall debates involving Hamilton, Mason and Madison set precendence for modern politics, while a visit to Jefferson's Virginia home, Monticello, gives insight into the mind which created our Bill of Rights. Then a westward surge follows Daniel Boone across the Appalachians, expanding the character of the new republic "beyond the imagining of the learned and graceful men of the 18th century." Age appeal - General.

*S THE AMERICAN FLAG, The Story of Old Glory (Rev. edition). EBF. Color. 14 min. $185. Rental $9.00.

A visual study of the country's flag reinforces the fact that it stands as a symbol of all our country's people. Reviews the various American flags, beginning with the Spanish flag brought by Columbus through the additions of stars for new states and the latest Pledge of Allegiance. Collaborator: Bruce Catton, Editor of American Heritage. Age appeal - General.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: 1770-1783 "A Conversation with Lord North" BFA. Color. 32 3/4 min. $420. Rental $35.

Peter Ustinov and Eric Sevareid are featured in this first of a series of interviews on personalities and issues of the American Revolution. This film reveals the tremendous impact a personality -- and his strength and weaknesses -- can have on history. Produced by CBS News. Age appeal - Adult.

* AN AMERICAN TIME CAPSULE (1968). By Charles Braverman. Pyramid. Color. 3 min. $60. Rental $10.

Evoking one of the greatest positive audience responses of anything ever presented on the "Smothers Brothers' Comedy Hour," AN AMERICAN TIME CAPSULE condenses two hundred years' of American history into three volatile minutes. Using a kinestatic or "flash frame" technique, 1,300 visuals (paintings, still photographs, newspaper headlines, early newsreels, posters, political cartoons) flash before the viewer, each image photographed at rates ranging from one-twelfth to two-thirds of a second, all to the quick, involving rhythm of Sandy Nelson's drumbeat. The film is a chronological "capsule" building to climax and made more intricate by the restrained use of filters, zooms and short pans. Beginning with the Revolutionary War the images come in a furious barrage, ending finally with President Nixon. Sequences on the winning of the West, the Civil War, and the two world wars bring home the point that much of our history has been violent or, in Braverman's words, "You see things that maybe you didn't realize before." AN AMERICAN TIME CAPSULE has appeared on network television numerous times and its effect on film technique, especially TV commericals, is history. Political science and American history classes will thoroughly enjoy this film for its unique presentation of American history. Humanities and literature classes will be interested in its statement about violence. Any class studying rhythm in the arts will profit from analyzing the film's visual and aural "beat" Film classes will learn much about the art of kinestasis and the matching of sound topicture. "Braverman's first and most basic kinestasis film. Emphasizing violence, it remains a visceral, fascinating experience even after several viewings." Age appeal - Junior High through Adult.

*S AMERICAN REVOLUTION. EBF. Color. 16 min. $185. Rental $9.00.

Explains the strategy, struggle, movement for forces, important military engagements and the meaning of the war for independence. Stresses geographical, social and political factors which brought victory. Colaborator: Henry Steele nager, Ph. D., Amherst College. Age appeal - General

BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL. AIMS. Color. 6 min. $120. Rental $20.

American Revolution: The Battle of Bunker Hill, June 15, 1775. A concise unt of this crucial event that led to the birth of our nation, visualized and told in basic terms for elementary American History courses. Age appeal - Primary - Middle Grades.

*S THE BATTLE OF YORKTOWN. EBF. Color. 13 min. $185. Rental $9.00.

Describes the events which led up to the decisive battle of the American Revolution at Yorktown, and shows the battle itself in colorful detail. The film shows Washington's skill as a leader and his tact in dealing with America's French allies, and indicates the importance of France in contributing to the American victory. Age appeal - General

S BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. EBF. B/W. 17 min. $150. Rental $9.00.
The film presents highlights of the rich, full life of Benjamin Franklin, statesman of letters, and scientist-inventor. Collaborator: Carl Van Doren Age appeal - General.

* THE BOSTON TEA PARTY. Disney. 30 min. $345.
Dramatizes the significant role played by a perceptive youth, Johnny Tremaine, who becomes intimately involved in events precending a climactic episode in our country's history. Age appeal - General.

* CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH--(Founder of Virginia). EBF. B/W. 20 min. $150. Rental $9.00.
Re-creates the character of John Smith and shows how he held Jamestown together during starvation and disease, Indian attacks, and internal dissension. Tells the story of his capture by Indians -- and how he was saved from death by Pocohantas. Collaborator: Clarence L. Ver Steeg, Ph. D., Northwestern Univ. Age appeal - General

* CHILDREN OF THE COLONIAL FRONTIER. McGraw-Hill. Color. 20 min. $295. Rental $15.
Far from the thriving colonial cities of Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, Jerome O'Connor and his family struggle to survive in the Appalachian wilderness of the 1760's. This unique film depicts pioneer life on the very edge of America's colonial frontier. We see the spring planting and the fall harvesting; the unending labor of making soap, carding wool and hunting; and the many other day-by-day chores that must be performed to insure survival. Age appeal - Children

CHILDREN OF THE FORT. McGraw-Hill. Color. 19 min. $290. Rental $15.
Life in a fort, which served as a military post and supply line, is presented through the experiences of two youngsters. The sutler, the blacksmith, and the washerwoman are depicted; education, trade, and family life are shown as well as the relations with peaceful and hostile Indians. Adviser: Dr. George L. Anderson, Department of History, University of Kansas. Age appeal - Children.

S CITY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS: WASHINGTON. Films Inc., Color. 28 min. $380. Rental $45.
A history of Washington, D. C. from its planning to modern times. The film also traces black history within the context of our Capital City's history. Stills and old photos give way to actual film footage as "time" progresses. Age appeal - General.

COLONIAL AMERICA: THE BEGINNINGS McGraw-Hill. Color. 25 min. $360. Rental $20.
This film presents the causes behind the English immigration to the colonies and the colonists' early trials and eventual successes. It then proceeds to deal with the more significant features that marked the early days of colonization in the new world: colonization by Europeans, Puritan splinter groups and the southern planation system. Age appeal - General.

COLONIAL CHILDREN. EBF. B/W. 11 min. $75. Rental $7.50.
Authentically re-creates Puritan farm life in 17th century New England. Shows how farmers work at home, in the fields; how they make their clothing, utensils, and candles; and how their children receive schooling and religious education at home. Collaborator: Edwin J. Hipkiss, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass. Age appeal - Children.

*S COLONIAL NATURALIST. McGraw-Hill. Color. 28 min. $315. Rental $20.
This film serves a twofold purpose: first, it recounts the American experience of English naturalist Mark Catesby, the "Colonial Audubon" who, for seven years, sketched and collected the flora and fauna of the American South which resulted in his monumental two-volume contribution to 18th century scientific study, "Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands." Secondly, this film exposes to your students the hundreds of animals and plants, alive and in their settings, that Catesby analyzed. Produced by Colonial Williamsburg. Age appeal - General.

*S THE CONSITUTION: THE COMPROMISE THAT MADE A NATION. Learning Corp. of America. Color. 26 min. $390. Rental $35.
Dramatization of the making of the constitution centering on the debate concerning methods of representation. Exposes the volatile disagreement between large and small states that nearly lead to dissolution of the newly formed union. Intense acting features the diplomatic maneuvering of Benjamin Franklin. Age appeal - General.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. EBF. Color. 22 min. $290. Rental $13.50.
Dramatizes the conditions which led to the creation of a stronger federal government, the events leading to the convening of the Constitutional Convention, major work of the convention, the underlying principles of government in the Constitution and the struggle over ratification. Collaborator: Alpheus T. Mason, Ph. D., Princeton University. Age appeal - General.

DAWN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: A LEXINGTON FAMILY. Coronet. Color. 16 min. $210.
On location filming features an American boy whose ideas clash with those of his English born uncle. Defines the moods and clarifies the issues of the American Revolution. Age appeal - General.

* DEMOCRACY -- EQUALITY OR PRIVILEGE? (Thomas Jefferson vs. Alexander Hamilton--1790's) Disney. 13 min. $170.
Should people govern themselves or be ruled by a strong central government headed by an aristocracy of wealthy men? Two influential statesman--State Secretary Jefferson and Treasury Secretary Hamilton--disagreed fundamentally on how government should be conducted. Their debate continues to this day. Produced by Turnley Walker. Age appeal - General.

* FABULOUS COUNTRY. Films Inc. Color. 52 min. Cost ? Rental $50.
A survey of several aspects of the American image, such as Benjamin Franklin and American Indian legends, using painting, photographs and filmed sequences. Narrated by Chet Huntley and Walter Brennan. Points out the ironies of the American image as fabulous in both positive and negative ways. Age appeal-General

* FREEDOM RIVER. Paulist Productions. Color. 8 min. Cost ? Rental $15.
An animated parable of American society's tendency to take freedom for granted. Good for raising questions for discussion. Age appeal - General.

THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR--Seven Years' War in America. EBF. Color. 16 min. $220. Rental $11.00.

Re-creates events in the struggle between the French and English. Explains differences between French & English colonial policies, ways of living, and methods of conducting military campaigns. Collaborators: Howard Peckham. Director, The Clements Library, University of Michigan; and John I. Cooper, Ph. D McGill University. Age appeal - General.

GEORGE WASHINGTON. EBF. B/W. 19 min. $150. Rental $9.00.

Brings to life the qualities and skills which made Washington the builder of the American nation. Illustrates his trials and triumphs as military leader in the American Revolution and as organizer of the movement to frame the Constitution. Reveals his difficulties and successes as President. Age appeal - General.

*S GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE WHISKEY REBELLION: TESTING THE CONSTITUTION. LCA. Color. 26 min. $390. Rental $35.

Uproar from Pennsylvania farmers over a federal tax levied on whiskey provides the first major test of the two year old Constitution and the stability of the new union of states. George Washington leads troops into Pennsylvania to prevent dissidents of one region from rendering the law worthless. Age appeal - General.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GREATEST VICTORY. Cornet. Color. 17 min. $212.00.

Birth of America through the eyes of George Washington beginning with his escapade north to verify the invasion of territories by French and Indians, ending with Washington's greatest victory at the New Windsor Cantonment. Age appeal - General.

HOME LIFE. McGraw-Hill. Color. 21 min. $235. Rental $20.00.

Morning in the house: the master rises and joins his family for breakfast. While the family eats, the slaves are engaged in household tasks. The film indicates the division of labor which existed in 18th century Virginia: the head of the house worked at a craft, while his slaves were given the responsibility of keeping up the house. In keeping with this tradition, the master and his son go to the cabinet shop where the son will spend his first day as an apprentice. Age appeal - General.

INDIAN FAMILY OF LONG AGO. EBF. Color. 14 min. $185. Rental $9.00.

Accurately re-creates the life of Plains Indians in the Dakotas and adjoining territories two hundred years ago. Presents a summer day's activities in the life of members of a Sioux family traveling to a large buffalo hunting camp. Age appeal - general.

* INDIANS OF EARLY AMERICA. EBF. Color. 22 min. $290. Rental $13.50. (Re-creates activities of representative early North)

American Indian tribes. Includes the ceremonies of the death and succession of an Iroquois chief; scenes of a Sioux buffalo hunt; pottery-making in a pueblo village; and a potlatch ceremony. Age appeal - General.

LAUNCHING THE NEW GOVERNMENT. Coronet. Color. 13½ min. $161.00.
Problems faced by Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Adams from 1789 to 1800 are dramatized. Major events include the creation of the United State Bank, the Judiciary Act of 1789, and the Tariff Act of 1789. Age appeal - General.

* A MAJESTIC HERITAGE (1970). Pyramid. Color. 10 min. $140. Rental $10.
In traditional animation style, this film presents the early history of our nationa from the birth of the first colonies through the period of independence to the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. Special emphasis is given to the Constitution, which is aptly called "a masterpeice of compromise." Concepts that are difficult to present such as the legislative, executive, and judicial functions of the government, are explained, as is the Bill of Rights. The same famous figure of Lincoln which begins the firlm reappears at the end. He becomes for us the symbol of our "majestic heritage," reinforced by the inspiring words and music of "The Battle Hym of the Republic." Interesting, informative, and clearly presented, this film should prove extremely useful in the study of American history and government. Age appeal - Elementary.

* THE MIDNIGHT RIDE OF PAUL REVERE. EBF. Color. 11 min. $150. Rental $9.00.
Reviews the explosive situation that existed in the colonies during the spring of 1775, and re-creates the events that occurred on the night of April 18th. Illustrates the significance of Paul Revere's ride in the series of events leading to the War of Independence. Age Appeal - General.

* NEW ENGLAND TOWN 1660: Call of the Frontier. EBF. Color. 18 min. $220. Rental $11.
A case history with an unresolved plot that leads directly to class discussion. Tom Boodbody, a blacksmith has signed a four-year contract with a New England town to assure an income. His independent thinking makes Tom suspect among the town elders, but they need his skills. Various possibilities open up for him -- to move to the Connecticut Valley, to Boston, or to remain. The town leaders finally demand a decision, but the film ends without Tom's answer. What might be his choice -- and why? Age appeal - General.

OUR AMERICAN FLAG. Oxford Films. Color. 8 min. $130. Rental $15.
Explains in a simple manner what the American flag represents, and illustrates the role of the individual as a citizen of his community and his country. Actor, John Forsythe narrates. Age appeal - General.

PATRIOTIC MUSIC: IT'S INFLUENCE ON UNITED STATES HISTORY. Dana Productions. 21 min. Sale ? Rental $30.
The film relates the story behind the seven most popular patriotic anthems and how they affected our history. They are: Yankee Doodle, Hail Columbia, The Star Spangled Banner, America, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Dixie, and America the Beautiful. Age appeal - Children.

S THE PILGRIMS. EBF. B/W. 22 min. $150. Rental $9.00.
Authentic sets and period costumes bring alive the Pilgrims, their religious persecution in England, their poverty in Holland, the North Atlantic crossing, the signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the first Thanksgiving. Age appeal - General.

*S THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1971). Pyramid. Color. 6 min. $100. Rental $10.
The Pledge of Allegiance is a history of the development of the American flag, a brief review of our nation's history, with youngsters asking their parents probing and sometimes difficult questions about the words of the pledge. These questions can only be answered in terms of the ideals behind the pledge, the very same ideals upon which our nation was founded and which the parents honestly admit do not always work. The film concludes with a folk song version of the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the reminder that "we pledge our allegiance, our loyalty, to an ideal which only we can make happen." THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE can be used not only to help children understand the significance of this national promise, but it can prompt discussions of subjects suggested in the film: the Revolutionary War, the history of our flag, the Civil War, slavery, civil rights, religious freedom, our representative form of government. It is valuable to those involved in childhood education and interested in creating films for children. It can also provide a unique way of opening a PTA or scout meeting. "An interesting approach to a pledge often learned merely by rote. A good motivational tool for youngsters who have to be 'convinced' to perform this activity." LANDERS FILM REVIEWS. Age appeal - Elementary and Adults interested in childhood education.

* THE RIGHT OF DISSENT (John Adams vs. Matthew Lyon -- 1798). Disney. 20 min. $250.
To what extent should a private citizen be allowed to criticize the President of the United States? Representative Matt Lyon went to prison for his outspoken remarks about President John Adams and started the controversy that has surfaced repeatly in times of national stress. Produced by Turnley Walker. Age appeal - General.

S ROGER WILLIAMS (Founder of Rhode Island) EBF. B/W. 11 min. $75. Rental $7.50.
Re-creates the story of Roger Williams' conflict with the Puritan leaders of New England, which led him to establish the new colony, Rhode Island, based on the principles of separation of church and state, freedom of conscience, and the protection of minorities. Age appeal - General.

* 1776. McGraw-Hill. Color. 54 min. $695. Rental $30.
Filmed at Lexington and Concord, Boston, Philadelphia, and Williamsburg -- as well as in England and France -- this film chronicles the events which created a new atmosphere in which man could flourish. It commences with a survey of the period when the American Colonies were beginning to prosper, follows through the uprisings and events leading to the Declaration of Independence, ends with the first year of the war when Washington surprised the British at Trenton. Age appeal - General.

THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD. Disney. 32 min. $345.
Younger members of the "Sons of Liberty" supplied the information about British plans which enabled Paul Revere to alert the Minutemen to take up arms. From Johnny Tremain. Age appeal - Children.

STORY OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. EBF. Color. 17 min.. $290. Rental $13.50.
Brings to life the story of America's discovery and of the man whose conviction, courage, and faith brought it about. Dramatizes highlights in the life of Columbus, including his boyhood dreams of travel and adventure, his tireless search for aid in organizing an expendition, his long and hazardous voyage westward, and finally his landing at San Salvador in 1492. Age appeal-General.

THOMAS JEFFERSON. EBF. B/W. 18 min. $150. Rental $9.00.
Presents a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, the statesman, the diplomat, the man of letters, and the progressive farmer. Age appeal - General.

S TO SEARCH FOR AMERICA. Pyramid. Color. 17 min. $225. Rental $20.
Discarding the conventional sightseeing bus tour of Washington, D. C., "the glories of a nation condensed in a half-hour," to search for America, the real America, this film journeys first to middle America. There it finds proud, satisfied patriotic people claiming that what they have is "the best, the most or the biggest." Film concludes that America really lies in its questioning and searching for answers to seemingly impossible situations. Age appeal - General.

VALLEY FORGE: "NO FOOD, NO SOLDIER". Cornet. Color. 13 min. $188.
On location filming joined with excerpts from letters, diaries, and memoirs recreates the servere realities of the Valley Forge winter and an unpleasant episode in Washington's leadership. Age appeal - General.

* WILLIAMSBURG SAMPLER. Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Color. 28½ min. $295.
A basic film about Colonial Williamsburg: a cross section of all its many appeals. The history, architecture, crafts, music, gardens, and furnishings of the restoration are accompanied by brief comments from staff experts and from historical records. Age appeal - General.

S WILLIAMSBURG: Story of a Patriot. McGraw-Hill. Color. 36 min. $400. Rental $25.
In this film students see clearly many of the factors involved in the making of the Revolution. It tells of the crucial years when every colonist faced the issues of submitting to taxation without representation, resisting British pressure on a sister colony, meeting force with force, and taking the final step of complete independence. The people, events, buildings, gardens, costumes and furnishings are as authentic as careful research could make them, and the spoken words are taken, whenever possible, from the speaker's own letters or other writings. Produced by Colonial Williamsburg. Age appeal - General.

YORKTOWN: THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN. Cornet. Color. 13½ min. $194.
Eyewitness effect created with on location filming, hand held cameras, and narration from letters, memoirs, journals, and undelivered military dispatches. Viewers are placed in a role of putting Cornwallis, Washington, and their soldiers into chronological steps leading to battle, surrender, and victory. One of the more visually and audibly intriguing educational films on the revolution. Age appeal - General.

YOU ARE THERE: TREASON OF BENEDICT ARNOLD. BFA. Color. 22 min. $330. Rental $20.

CBS news correspondent Walker Cronkite is anchorman as top correspondents interview the famous and infamous recreating in a series of eyewitness enactments some of the most significant events in history. Produced by CBS. Age appeal - Adult.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

The following sources should be consulted for additional films on the Bi-Centennial:

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Bicentennially Related Films, from American Revolution, Bicentennial Administration 2401 E. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20276.

Booklist - published by American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Films for the American Issues Forum from Films, Inc., 1144 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

"Glimpses of History" from Bicentennial Program Ideas published by NCLA Children's Services' Section, N. C. L. A.